

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A latch for joining two parts to one another, comprising:
  - a hook possessing a curved end arranged to engage with a retaining member connected to a first part; part, and
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a main pin designed to be attached firmly to a second part;
  - a single operating member pivoting about an end pin situated on the hook at an opposite end from the curved end of the hook; and
  - an articulation including a pair of compression links pivoting on the main pin and on an intermediate pin located on the operating member, the intermediate pin being positioned between the main pin and the end pin, pin when the latch is closed,
  - wherein the hook is located between the operating member and the main pin, pin, and at least one of the compression links is provided with a guide means contacting a surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member during the opening of the latch, such that the hook is supported by the guide means when the latch is open, open,
  - wherein the guide means consists of a spur connected to its corresponding compression link and is housed in a recess formed in the surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The latch as claimed in claim 3, claim 1, wherein the recess is larger in an area that acts as a housing for the guide means at the end of the latch-opening operation.

5. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the locked position, the center of the main pin and the hook lie on either side of a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

6. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hook is provided with a projection capable of partially covering the main pin in the locked position.

7. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the locked position, the center of the main pin is positioned between the hook and a line joining the center of the retaining member to the center of the intermediate pin.

8. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 1, further comprises a second pair of compression links pivoting on the intermediate pin and on the end pin.

9. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating member is firmly attached to the intermediate pin.

10. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 9, wherein the operating member is divided into a main structure having a pivoting axis and an end structure situated at an end opposite end from the end pin.

11. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 10, wherein a stop-piece belonging to the main structure is capable of limiting the angular travel of the end structure.

12. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in the locked position, a spring keeps the end structure aligned with the main structure.

13. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating member comprises a window giving access to the hook from the outside.

14. (Previously Presented) The latch as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hook has a bore that can be accessed from the outside and in which a through part can be housed, preventing the opening of the latch.